

2.4km tower plan not yet on tallest buildings list



David Scott, Chairman for the CTBUH and Principal at Arup PATRICK CASTILLO

DUBAI **Sona Nambiar**

The 2.4km building image, which is the next contender of the tallest building in the world has been circulated widely but is not yet on the Council for Tall Buildings and Urban Habitats (CTBUH) list, said the chairman.

"I don't think anyone has owned up to any building taller than Nakheel at present but I would not be surprised. There are always people who are dreaming but nobody has yet said that we plan to build that," said David Scott, Chairman for the CTBUH and Principal at Arup. "I got copied by five different people. I know the people who are involved but I am obliged to keep it a secret."

It is when a developer announces plans to build a tall building that the CTBUH starts to take note of the project. "We do not give them any real credibility till then. I

know that there are other developers looking at other ideas," he said. "Certainly, the tallest building right now with planned construction right now is Nakheel."

Kingdom Holding in Saudi have made no formal announcement yet, he said though there have been media reports.

"I think that other people will consider more than a kilometre. How tall can one go? It is more a question of money and determination and while the technical aspects are challenging, it is not insurmountable," said Scott. "What I have seen is all unusual and different at Cityscape. It is my first time and it is very exciting to see the whole community enthusiastic in the Middle East."

According to him, Burj Dubai is doing a good job of spreading their knowledge on building a tall building. Besides, people do not design buildings for war, he

said. "A tall building is a statement of your willingness to seek a peaceful future and appear vulnerable. Burj Dubai happened after 9/11. It was still saying that we wanted to do that."

Tall buildings also make economic sense. Scott said Adrian Smith, the designer for Burj Dubai explained at the World Architecture Congress, held at Cityscape that the perimeter of Burj Dubai paid for the building.

"People are concerned about issues in terms of fire-fighting, evacuation scenarios, blast protection and so on," said Scott. "Earthquake design is not an issue. The Council has updated the design codes for complex buildings because codes were not designed for such buildings and we would advice to think of first principles, while designing. But I must say, that this is applicable for areas with severe seismic activity, not Dubai."